

**Francis Halkett to George Washington, May 4, 1758,
Letters to Washington and Accompanying Papers.
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FROM FRANCIS HALKETT, ESQ. ¹

PHILADELPHIA 4th. May, 1758.

DEAR SIR,—General Forbes having information that a party of our Catawbas are just return'd to Winchester, from a Scout to the Ohio, and have brought in with them several Prisoners and Scalps,—as the General is extreamly desirous of Knowing the condition of Fort Duquesne, & the situation of the Enemy's strength in these parts, he has ordered me to acquaint you, that if the Intelligence the Prisoners give is so distinck, and of such consequence, as to be of service to the General, that you will take the first opportunity to send them to Philadelphia—and to facilitate their Conveyance, you will send an open letter to the Commanding Officers at the different Posts upon their Route, that they are to forward them with an escort from Post to Post You will at the same time be pleased to send the General any information that you have taken from the Prisoners.²

Their is a Treaty on foot just now between the Shawanees, the Delawares and the people of this province, and he is very sorry to learn that several of the Cherokees have taken into their heads to ramble this way, that several of them are come to Carlisle, and he is just now informed that some of them are coming into this Town. The General therefore desires that you will be at particular pains to prevent any more of them coming this way, and that they may be employed as much as possible in Scouting parties, to cover our Posts, and Magazines & Keep the frontiers of the Country quiet; & as the most effectual Route for that

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purpose, he would recommend to you, the sending of them out by *Rays Town, & Franks Town*, to *long Island* in the West branch of the Susquhanna, and examine all the Paths leading to wards the Ohio.

The General is very much alarmed with a letter which he has this moment Received, with an Account that the Raven (a Cherokee Captain) and 30 of his men, having returned to their own Country much displeased with the English, he therefore must press it in the warmest manner that the utmost attention be paid by every body under your Command towards keeping the Indians in a good disposition, & that all means be used in bringing back the Raven & those Indians who have Return home.³

The General is just now employed in buying all the strouds, and goods that will be necessary to make in presents to the Indians & has laid an Embargo upon every thing in this Town that will be of service in that way.

Provided that the Catawbias are not disposed to part with their Prisoners, you are not to send them, but if they can be procured without giving umbrage, the General will be very desirous of seeing them. I am with great regard, Dear Washington, Your most obedient & most humble Servant

FRANCIS HALKETT

P. S.—You will please for the future, to send all your Returns to me at Philadelphia, that I may make up a general State of the Whole to be laid before General Forbes at the different times as they shall offer.

1 Brigade Major to General Forbes.

2 The reply from Washington was that nothing of this kind had occurred this year, nor had any prisoners been taken, nor scalps, except two taken near Fort Duquesne by the young warrior, Uchahula.

3 The Raven warrior was on a scout from Fort Frederick, Md., in which he was unsuccessful. On his return to Fort Loudoun he produced two white men's scalps, which he brought from his own tribe, and wanted to pass them for the enemy's, taken in his unsuccessful scout. In this villainy he was detected by the other warriors, who were highly offended at so base a deceit and threatened to kill him for it. A consciousness of his guilt and a dread of being called to a severe account by his own tribe were the reasons which many of them assigned for his going

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away in so abrupt, but to Washington by no means dissatisfactory, a manner. See Washington's letter to Major Halket of May 33, 3758.